

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01809 021542Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05  
/062 W

-----045641 022237Z /64

R 021512Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9431  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1809

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, EI, UK, US  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS TO SENATOR KENNEDY'S STATEMENT ON  
NORTHERN IRELAND PROTESTANTS

REF: BELFAST 245

1. ALL THE IRISH DAILIES HAVE GIVEN GOOD COVERAGE TO  
SENATOR KENNEDY'S JULY 31 STATEMENT ON NORTHERN IRELAND.  
THE ONLY EDITORIAL SO FAR WAS IN THE AUGUST 1 IRISH TIMES,  
WHICH WAS SOMEWHAT SARCASTIC BUT GENERALLY FAVORABLE:

"SENATOR TED KENNEDY HAS DISCOVERED THE  
PROTESTANT IRISH.

GOOD FOR HIM....."

THE EDITORIAL THEN SUMMARIZES THE KENNEDY STATEMENT AND  
CONTINUES:

"IRISH PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN CONSCIOUS OF IT ALL  
ALONG NEED NOT BE TOO CENSORIOUS OR CYNICAL AT THIS  
SUDDEN, NAIF-APPEARING CONVERSION. FOR IT SEEMS  
LIKELY THAT THE SENATOR'S DEMARCHE IS ONE PART OF  
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AN AMERICAN CAMPAIGN BEING BUILT UP IN THE ENTIRELY  
LAUDABLE HOPE OF BRINGING NOT MERELY PEACE BUT  
SOME MEASURE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE  
PEOPLE OF THE NORTH.

HE DESERVES WELL FOR HIS WILLINGNESS TO TAKE UP  
THE CAUSE."

2. THIS IS FOLLOWED BY SPECULATION ON REACTIONS BOTH IN  
THE U.S. AND HERE IN IRELAND, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE UNIONISTS.  
IT CONCLUDES:

"THERE IS A DANGER THAT SENATOR KENNEDY'S  
ENTHUSIASM FOR THE PROTESTANT NORTHERNERS MAY EXALT  
THE IDEA OF TWO CULTURES. THERE IS MORE TO BEING  
IRISH THAN CLAIMING EITHER SAXON OR CELTIC ORIGINS.  
THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND DERIVE NOT ONLY CUSTOMS  
AND ATTITUDES BUT ALSO GENES FROM INHABITANTS WHO  
HAD BEEN MILLENIA ON THE LAND BEFORE EVEN THE CELTS  
CAME, MUCH LESS THE ENGLISH.

WE ARE, AS AE HAD IT, ONE RIVER BORN OF MANY  
STREAMS, AND THE PROTESTANT IRISH OF THE NORTH  
HAVE AS MUCH A CLAIM ON ALL OF THIS IRISH HERITAGE  
AS ANYONE ELSE." SHANNON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Subject:** MEDIA REACTIONS TO SENATOR KENNEDY'S STATEMENT ON NORTHERN IRELAND PROTESTANTS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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